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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : Not Yet Assigned  
Applicants : Jun FUJII et al.  
Filed : Concurrently Herewith  
Title : MITSUI MINING & SMELTING CO., LTD.  
International Application No. : PCT/JP03/08339  
International Filing Date : 1 July 2003  
Priority Date Claimed : 2 July 2002

**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.